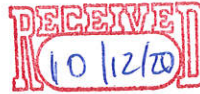


9 October 2020



TO: Mel Bolling
C/O Jay Pence
Teton Basin Ranger District

RE: Grand Targhee Master Development Plan

Dear Mr. Bolling,

My name is John Meredith Wilson. I am a life-long resident and property owner in Alta Wyoming. My Great-Grandfather homesteaded here in 1889. My father John Mark Wilson, was one of the primary investors and proponents of Grand Targhee in the 1960's. He was given the scissors (still in my possession) used in the ribbon cutting ceremony, engraved with the words: "GRAND TARGHEE RESORT, Officially Opened, February 2, 1970". He along with others hoped for a resort where their children might have a place to work and thus remain in Teton Valley. I fulfilled part of that dream of his for a time upon my graduating from college by coming back to Alta and working as a ski instructor at Grand Targhee for 12 seasons. Mr. Gillette likes to say that it was the vision of the originators to have a "world class resort" at Targhee. Knowing my father as I did I believe he and others always considered Grand Targhee more of a regional resort.

I have several concerns with the Grand Targhee Master Plan proposal:

1. Drinking water contamination of the Alta Community Pipeline. We along with many other families get our culinary water from a spring source in Teton Canyon. It is an adjudicated water right from the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, permit # 6840, priority date of: 08-08-1905.

When Grand Targhee constructed the road into the bottom of Peaked Mountain to start construction of the Sacajawea lift in 2001, our drinking water was affected with sedimentation. That was the first time that had happened. It has now become a yearly occurrence during the spring run-off

that the bottom of our toilet tanks are covered with a layer of silt. A glass of water is cloudy. I expressed concerns to the Forest Service in a written letter at the time, but was ignored. I suspect the bike trails are also contributing to the sedimentation and I fear that further construction of lifts, roads and bike trails on Peaked Mountain will make our drinking water unusable. Further, the proposed restaurant, warming cabins or huts with sewage systems would certainly have impacts on Alta residents to have clean, high quality water. Our permitted drinking water should have precedence over new development on National Forest Land. In addition, I along with 11 other land owners in Alta have an irrigation system with a 1918 adjudicated water right from Mill Creek that I fear may be compromised by more development between Lightning and Peaked Mountains.

2. The views from Teton Valley are already marred by the lights at night, and reflection from the afternoon sun on the lift buildings. Construction of restaurants with glass siding and additional lighting will have a detrimental impact on our afternoon and night skies even more. We already deal with light emanating from the base infrastructure.
3. The Special Use Permit (SUP) Operational Boundary Adjustment would be an encroachment on the south facing slopes of Teton Canyon. So would the addition of new lifts, terrain development, glading and grading. All these developments would have a detrimental impact on wildlife. Teton Canyon is already seeing more and more use in the summer and the winter and this would only make the impact worse.
4. There is clearly a conflict of interest if the consultant for Grand Targhee would be doing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Forest Service. If this were to happen, everyone would question the bias towards approval of the master plan proposal.
5. A previous owner of this resort used to whine that if he didn't get what he was asking for that the resort would close or be sold to the Japanese. That

is capitalism. Yet it seems to be that which Mr. Gillette is hoping for with these massive expansions, making the resort more marketable for a subsequent buyer. What Geordie is proposing would have nothing but negative impacts for Teton Canyon, the mountain ecosystem, and Alta. We who have made this our home will be left to deal with those negative impacts, while he gets a huge financial windfall. Mr. Gillette doesn't even live in Alta. What happens here doesn't seem to matter to him, he has no sense of community or place. Please consider not only what is best for the west slope of the Tetons, but what is best for the community of Alta.

Teton County Wyoming's Mission Statement and Guiding Principles states in part, "...a balanced community not dominated by lodging and resorts, maintaining and enhancing environmental quality, including air and water quality... Teton County is a community first and a resort second".

Please say no to Grand Targhee's proposals.

Sincerely



John Meredith Wilson

Dana Holm Wilson

(b) (5)